

PROPERTY OWNERS WINDFIGHT AGAINST COST OF PAVEMENT

Court of Appeals Rules Bor- land Law Applies to City Streets Only.

DECISION SETTLES ISSUE. NO APPEAL TO BE MADE

Justice Stafford Says Taxpayer Should Be Given Benefit of All Doubts.

The Borland law, assessing half the cost of paving against abutting property owners, applies only to city streets and not to country roads in the rural sections of the District.

The District Court of Appeals decided today in an opinion by Chief Justice Smyth.

The finding of the appellate court upholds the decision rendered some time ago by Justice Stafford in the District Supreme Court, in which he took the same view of the question.

Corporation Counsel Francis H. Stephens, when he learned of the conclusion of the court of appeals, said he would not take the issue to the United States Supreme Court.

\$2,199.53 in Test Case.

The case was brought by Anna M. Knox, Cora H. Knox and Nina V. West, owners of property abutting on Naylor road southeast. Chief Justice Smyth pointed out in the decision that the property is valued at only \$11,300 and that the special assessment on it for the paving of Naylor road with common macadam came to \$2,199.53.

The decision means that persons owning property in rural sections of the District of Columbia will not have to pay the one-half cost assessment when abutting roads are improved.

Corporation Counsel Stephens said today, however, that, so far as he knows, there is no well-defined boundary line that could be laid down to distinguish between city streets and country roads. Each case, he said, will have to be decided upon its merits.

Wants Wording of Law Followed.

The court of appeals calls attention to the wording of the law which provides that a paving, for which there is to be an assessment levied, must not be less than one square in extent from curb to curb or gutter to gutter. The court takes the view that this was intended to mean city streets, for the reason that it is unusual to speak of squares or curb when referring to country roads.

The chief justice further states in the decision that it is the practice in cases involving taxation or assessment that the wording of the law should be followed as clearly as possible, and any doubt which may arise should go to the taxpayer.

FOUR-ALARM FIRE THREATENS HOTEL

Portland, at Thomas Circle, Damaged—Woman, Sick in Bed, Rescued.

Fire breaking out in the apartment of Senator McKellar of Tennessee, at the Portland, facing on Thomas Circle, resulted in four alarms, a great deal of excitement, a general exodus of guests and little damage, except that caused by water.

The fire was discovered by E. A. Gavey, who turned in the house fire alarm which resulted in a general outpouring of guests. When the second alarm was turned in Fire Chief Watson announced the alarm and sent in two additional alarms.

The fire, which appeared of greater proportions than it really was, was extinguished within half an hour after the firemen reached the scene. Mrs. Lynn Glover, forty-two years of age, was in bed and unable to leave her room when the fire broke out. Two firemen brought her down the elevator and left her in the reception hall. The great volume of water had flooded the entire hotel, and the firemen had to wade through the water to reach the fire.

The fire originated in apartment 52, occupied by Senator McKellar of Tennessee. On the floor above, Margaret Cummins, a sister of Senator Cummins of Iowa, who was confined to her room in a sick bed. She was one of the last to leave the apartment, having to wait until the elevator, which was occupied in bringing firemen and fire-fighting apparatus to the roof, had space to accommodate passengers.

LORD AND LADY ASTOR LEAVE FOR QUAKER CITY

Lord and Lady Astor left Washington early today for Philadelphia, after what the latter described as the "most wonderful three-day visit ever enjoyed in the Nation's Capital."

Lady Astor is to address the Women's Trade Union League at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia tomorrow afternoon, she announced before her departure.

Lord Astor stated that Lady Astor and himself would leave Philadelphia Tuesday evening for Richmond, for a brief visit, after which they would go to Lynchburg, possibly Thursday, visit Danville and then return to Astor's old home in Albemarle county. Lord Astor was unable to say where they would go after the Virginia trip.

Yesterday, the last day of the British couple in Washington, was spent in a strictly social way. After attending service in a Christian Science Church in the morning, they lunched with Gen. Pershing. In the afternoon, they were entertained by a group of friends. A party of friends.

HELD AT ELLIS ISLAND, MISSES ENGAGEMENT TO SEE PRESIDENT

By the Associated Press.
NEW YORK, May 1.—Gertrude Baer was released by a special board of inquiry today.

White House officials were informed today that one of those on President Harding's engagement list for the day, Miss Gertrude Baer of Hamburg, Germany, a delegate to the meeting here of the Women's International League for Peace, would be unable to fill the engagement because of detention at Ellis Island.

The visit of Miss Baer to the White House, it was said by officials there, had been arranged by the State Department at the request of the German embassy. Department officials said they had requested her detention upon arrival yesterday at New York, because of suspicion of alleged communistic beliefs.

Delegates to the meeting of the International League for Peace had an engagement today with Secretary Hughes to present a plea for recognition of Russia.

CHANGES PROPOSED IN BARRIMENT LAW

House Opponent and Advo- cate of Extension Agree Amendments Needed.

Important changes will be made in the Barriment act before it is reported to the House by the House District committee. This was assured today when the hearings on the bill, which has already passed the Senate to continue the life of the Rent Commission of the District of Columbia for two more years, resumed today.

Representative Frank C. Millesap, of Missouri, republican, who is leading the opposition to the bill, emphasized the need for certain amendments and it was admitted by Representative Hammer of North Carolina, the leading advocate for passage of the legislation, that certain facts brought out at the hearing today stressed the need for amending the act as it now exists.

One of these points is that a tenant in a case decided by the rent board and taken before the court of appeals should be required to pay the difference in rental until the court has decided. The rights of the landlord and owner also will be protected by the new bill, giving the landlord as well as the tenant a right to file complaint, and the court will be empowered to order an owner can acquire possession of his property or can oust undesirable tenants.

Comments of Members.

Several times today Representative Hammer insisted that the rent board seemed to be on trial before the committee instead of the merits of the legislation. Representative Keller of Minnesota stated his belief that the bill should first pass upon whether the situation exists which requires extending the life of the Barriment act before close inquiry is made into the merits of the bill.

Mrs. Anna Seals Taylor and William F. Gude, both of whom are on the board, are to be heard tomorrow morning. At 1 o'clock the new legislation will be taken up by the committee, and the hearing will be continued.

Chairman Sinclair a Witness.

A Leftwich Sinclair, chairman of the rent board, was the only witness before the committee today. Over his protest, Representative Millesap read into the hearing an extract from the decision of the court of appeals in the case of the Barriment act, in which it was figured that the rate allowed by the board was confiscatory and that the rent was in excess of the fair and impartial hearing, and which also stated that the rent board had acted in the double capacity of judge and counsel.

Mr. Sinclair endeavored to convince the committee that the rent board had not acted in the double capacity of judge and counsel, and that the rent board was not in excess of the fair and impartial hearing, and which also stated that the rent board had acted in the double capacity of judge and counsel.

CLAIMS POLITICS NAMED 90 OF 92 POSTMASTERS

Civil Service League Says Appoint- ments in Twenty States Ignore Eligible List.

NEW YORK, May 1.—Ninety out of ninety-two postmaster appointments went to republicans under the present administration, although appointments were made from the civil service list, the National Civil Service Reform League declared in a statement issued last night.

The league denounces the methods of naming forth-class postmasters and declares that their investigation and selection should be made by the nominating influence of postmaster appointments. The report is signed by William Dudley Foulke as chairman.

Enjoy the Educational and Entertaining Radio Concerts

which now fill the air, by using a simple and inexpensive set, which you can make.

The Star begins today a series of ten articles, describing in simple detail how to construct and "hook up" a good working set.

Begin the Series
Today on the
RADIO PAGE

FEDERAL WORKERS JOIN PROTESTING AGAINST TAX PLAN

5,000 Bureau of Engraving and Printing Employees Fight Increase.

STORM IS INCREASING AS ALL FORCES UNITE

Strong Complaint Made by Real Estate Board and Citi- zens' Conference.

Organized forces of business and real estate men and taxpayers that are fighting the increased taxation plan proposed by the conference on the District appropriation bill were considerably strengthened today when the joint conference board of the bureau of engraving and printing lined up with the protestants and requested a hearing on the matter, at which the District Commissioners would appear.

Meantime, the special committee of the Washington Real Estate Board appointed to study the new tax system adopted resolutions protesting against the proposed taxation plan. This resolution was adopted by the board of directors, and the board of directors of the Citizens' Association of the District of Columbia also adopted a resolution protesting against the proposed taxation plan.

5,000 Employees Represented.

Representing about 5,000 employees in the twenty-three various trades at the bureau of engraving and printing, the legislative committee of the joint conference on the District appropriation bill, presented to the District Commissioners, and forwarded to Congress, a request that an attempt be made to obtain a reduction in the proposed taxation plan.

The branches at Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Clonmel, Sligo, Castlebar and Tuam were among those raided. All the raiders escaped capture. No other banks were touched.

REBELS GIVE UP WHISKY.

Bloodshed at Kilkenny Avoided by Action of Troops.

WILSON CLUB SMOKES.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS HAVE SPECIAL PROGRAM.

MEXICO WANTS ALIENS.

OREGON TELLS VISITORS FOREIGN CAPITAL IS WELCOMED.

REPUBLICAN IRREGULARS IN NEW STEP TO PARALYZE PROVI- SIONAL GOVERNMENT.

PROTESTANTS ORDERED TO GO.

RAILROAD TRACKS ALSO TORN UP AND BRIDGES DESTROYED.

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IF ONE COULD ONLY TELL WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT!



ROB IRISH BANKS OF 100,000 POUNDS

Republican Irregulars in New Step to Paralyze Provi- sional Government.

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EXPLOSION KILLS FIVE.

Rooming House Blows Up From Some Unknown Cause.

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KIDNAPED PASTOR IS CHLOROFORMED

Gagged and Thrown Into Ditch on Eve of Church Trial.

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D. C. MAY GET SURPLUS.

Jones Resolution for Probe of Funds to Be Favorably Reported.

The Jones concurrent resolution, providing for an investigation of the surplus revenues of the District which have accrued in recent years, but which the District has been unable to use, will be reported favorably from the committee on the District, at an early date, probably Wednesday, according to Senator Ball, chairman of the committee.

Senator Ball said that he was convinced that some settlement should be made in regard to the surplus revenues of the District, as soon as possible. He expressed the opinion that the District was entitled to the use of the surplus, now amounting to nearly five million dollars.

SECRET GERMAN MILITARY TREATY DENIED BY RUSSIA

Tchitcherine Says There Were No Political Clauses in Rapallo Pact.

PARIS RESENTS LETTER WRITTEN TO BARTHO

Viewed as Continuation of Soviet Efforts to Gain French Confidence.

GENOA, May 1.—Foreign Minister Tchitcherine, head of the Russian delegation at the economic conference, has written a letter to Vice Premier Barthou of France, assuring him there are no secret military or political clauses in the Russo-German treaty signed Easter Sunday at Rapallo. He says Russia is not hostile toward France, notwithstanding France's unfriendly attitude toward Russia.

PARIS, May 1.—The full text of the letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Tchitcherine to Vice Premier Barthou, declaring there were no annexes to the Russo-German treaty of Rapallo, and assuring him that there were no secret military or political clauses in the French foreign office. French officials regard the letter as a continuation of the Soviet effort to gain French confidence in view of Soviet Russia's financial needs.

It was remarked today by foreign office officials that M. Tchitcherine referred to the treaty signed at Rapallo as a "categorical denial of any understanding, political or military, with Germany."

Hostility Charge Rejected.

M. Tchitcherine's reference to the hostility of the French to the Russian people was particularly resented. "The French government and the French people have the greatest sympathy for the Russian people. The soviets will fail to convince the world that the French attitude toward their government implies hostility to their people," said a high French official today. "We frankly and avowedly distrust the Moscow leaders, and sympathize all the more with the people because they are not permitted to express their will freely."

Official advice to the French foreign office lack interest in the Russian situation. The Prime Minister, Lloyd George, had proposed that the allied supreme council meet at San Francisco during the Geneva conference. It was stated today.

Meanwhile, the attitude of the French government toward the Russian people is unchanged. It remains hostile to any discussion of the measures to take against the Russian people, and the reparations commission has given notification of a default by Germany, it is declared.

Work on Proposals.

GENOA, May 1.—The work of completing the allied proposals to Russia was resumed today, with the promise of more rapid headway than heretofore.

The last few days have brought into evidence a more harmonious spirit between the British and French delegations, despite the continuing clashes between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Barthou. Confidence is felt that the divergence in the British and French views can be adjusted so as to bring about a settlement of the Russian situation.

Mr. Lloyd George has been officially communicated to the Russians as to the progress of the work, they have been told that the British government has already been decided by the powers, through publication of the declaration of the allied powers, to obtain that quiet unofficial conferences are taking place between the allied powers, and that the British government is endeavoring to lead them to appreciate the standpoint of the powers in the economic rejuvenation of Russia.

Pope's Letter Pleases.

Publication of a letter from Pope Pius XI to the Russian people, (Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

VIRGINIA "COOK TRAP" PUZZLES OHIO FOLKS WITH AMAZING RESULTS

Special Dispatch to The Star.

LEESBURG, Va., May 1.—Aristocratic Leesburg, Va., lays claim today to its first real modern "cook trap." It is on the country estate of John Y. Bassell, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, and was exhibited to a party of Mr. Bassell's old Columbus friends who stopped off here on a motor trip to New York.

The visit was marked by a luncheon fit for the gods. Virginia ham, chicken a la Maryland, diamond-back terrapin, corn fritters, waffles and honey carried the visitors, who were no mean epicureans themselves, into the elysian fields of the culinary art.

Naturally, they marveled at the manner in which the food was prepared and served; marveled that in these post-luncheon days the country "robbers" here could boast—and keep—such a master of the kitchen.

Today's News in Brief.
Pastor kidnaped and cast into ditch.
Republican irregulars rob Irish banks of 100,000 pounds sterling.
Bureau dispute over dismissals against three men.
Eastlake testifies against Miss Knox.
Maj. Gen. McAndrews dies at Walter Reed.
Opposition in France to Ambassador Jusserand of long standing.
Page 3

BALE FOR PEKING STILL RAGING, WITH WU FORCES GAINING

Tide of Conflict Rolling East- ward Toward City's Southern Wall.

DEFENDERS PLAN STAND- AT HUN RIVER CROSSING

Guard About American Legation Increased—Another U. S. Warship Expected.

By the Associated Press.
PEKING, May 1.—The battle for the possession of Peking was still continuing today, with the Chinese apparently going to the forces of Gen. Wu Pei-fu, driving toward the capital from the south.

Advices from the center of the fighting, twelve miles southwest of the city, were that Gen. Wu was forcing the soldiers of Gen. Chang Tso-lin from Changhsien, and that the tide of battle was rolling eastward toward the southern walls of Peking.

Heavy gunfire broke out to the east of Changhsien at 8 o'clock last night, continuing intermittently all night.

CHANG TROOPS RETREAT.

Artillery firing in the sector south of Peking came more intense toward midnight, and a small part of Gen. Chang Tso-lin's army retreated toward the southwest walls of Peking. Gen. Wu Pei-fu's forces appeared to be developing their flanking movement on Chang's right wing, while the latter's troops were defending the line of the Hun River, commanding the approach to Peking.

Observers reported that Chang had given batteries of three guns each, firing simultaneously, with trenches over the hills along the river 60 yards. Chang's troops were using shrapnel and machine guns.

(Liuho is on the Peking-Hankow railway, 100 miles from Peking, and twenty miles south of Changhsien, on which Gen. Chang Tso-lin's right wing rests.)

Reaches Telegraph Point.

Wu Pei-fu's army this afternoon had arrived at a point on the railroad between Peking and Tientsin. The telegraph station at this point, 190 miles from Peking, was reported to be approaching. Part of Wu Pei-fu's army was reported marching across the country to attack Chang Tso-lin south of Tientsin.

Gen. Chang Tso-lin is personally occupying a special train at Chungking, midway between Tientsin and Taku. The middle between Peking and the sea consequently has been closed. Chang Tso-lin's army here, who is dean of the diplomatic corps, filed a protest, asserting that the Chinese government was interfering with the freedom of international traffic between Peking and Shanghai, which is the northeast terminus of the great wall.

Fierce Fighting Shown.

Fighting around Peking has diminished as a result of the tactics of Chang Tso-lin's army from the immediate vicinity. Chinese inhabitants said today the wounded and dead found outside the walls of the city indicated the fiercest fighting that had taken place in recent history.

It develops today that Gen. Feng Yuh Siang, the "Christian general" who commanded Wu Pei-fu's operations in the battle of Changhsien, employed effective tactics. He drove the soldiers of Chang Tso-lin's forces away from their positions. The Chinese government is reported to have ordered the soldiers to be driven back to the city.

General's soldiers turned and delivered heavy fire, causing 15,000 of Chang Tso-lin's army to retreat. Feng Yuh Siang followed up this retreat, took a bridge and crossed the river.

Chang Tso-lin is thought to be driving the Manchurian general toward Tientsin.

Chinese cruisers are reported to have arrived at Shanghai, aiming to cut off Chang Tso-lin's rear. The port of Peking, beyond here are watching events closely.

A French gunboat and a British gunboat have arrived off Peking, and an Italian gunboat is expected.

CHANG HOLDS ADVANTAGE.

Fails to Fall in Trap Laid by Wu in Retreating.

BY WILLIAM R. GILES.

By Cable to The Star and Chicago Daily News.
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PEKING, May 1.—There has been continuous fighting on the whole front for the last thirty-six hours. The line extends from Chang Tientsin, 100 miles southwest of Peking, southward to Machang, fifty miles south of Tientsin. Gen. Wu Pei-fu's position is being improved by the Peking-Mukden railway. His attempt to secure control of Peking by dislodging the Fengtien forces at Changhsien has failed. Gen. Chang Tso-lin threw into the engagement a large artillery and cavalry reserve and drove back the Wu Pei-fu's army to its original position. The Fengtien troops refused to pursue, fearing a trap similar to the one which made Wu Pei-fu famous when fighting the Anfuites three years ago.

Gen. Chang Tso-lin is now holding all the approaches to Peking in this direction, his right flank resting on the western hills. Sunday morning Wu Pei-fu attempted encircling operations, but Chang Tso-lin anticipated this and defeated in a ding-dong struggle, which is still going on. The bombing of the cannon is heard continuously.